Funnels reported in four counties but confirmation will take days

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A STORM'S FURY

portion of Route 23 reported minor storm damage and power outages. Lin-coln Park was the hardest hit, having numerous downed trees and power lines, which caused traffic problems. In Boonton, police said the only victim of the storm was a raccoon that crossed a power line on its way to a tree top nest and was electrocuted

Tornadoes raced through portions of Sussex County about noon, shearing off roofs, ripping out trees and leveling a private garage, according to officials.

Ingrid Reynolds of Lafayette watched horrified as a twister wended its way along Route 15 in Frankford and then headed toward the Ideal Farm and Garden Center where she was

working.
"I'd never been through a hig wind like that before," she said.

Outside, co-worker Debi Stoll of Crandon Lakes was decorating grave blankets in a makeshift plastic green-house when stiff winds struck.

"It seemed like the greenhouse lifted and leaned over. I dove under one of the sleds. Right after I got under, the greenhouse blew over," she said.

About five minutes later, Stoll dug herself out of the debris, shaken but un-Nursery owner Jan Jorritsma sur-

reyed the damage, including a shorn chimney and ripped-apart roof, as well as an old haywagon that had been blown some 50 feet.

"I see thousands of dollars" of damage, she said. "This isn't fun, but it could be a lot worse."

From the nursery, the tornado headed toward Ross' Corner and Augusta, tipping over a vacant tractor-trailer and destroying the vacant main barn at the former Ideal Farms, at one time

the largest dairy farm in New Jersey.
Owner John Tanis of Frankford reminisced about the farm of his boy-hood as he looked at the crumbled heap

That was kind of the showplace of Ideal Farms when it existed," he re-

Across the street, a massive tree crushed a former tenant house. In the rear of the property, roofs from other garages and barns were peeled off.

Inside the maintenance building of the nearby Kerr Construction Inc., things were shaking and rattling as the

tornado passed, employees said. Robert Kutzman of Bushkill, Pa., said he hit the floor as interior lights started breaking and falling from the

Margaret Stark, owner of Stark Applicance in nearby Frankford, watched as her large garbage dumpster blew across Route 206 into a field.

I kept standing here thinking the roof is going to go any minute," she

Gladys Muller, a cashier at Russ' Corner Exxon in Frankford, feared her car would be sucked into the tornado as she sat inside eating her lunch.
"It was horrible. I felt like the

front of the car was going to lift up. It was scary. It was like smoke was swirling all around," she said. A power outage forced the Exxon

station, which also has a convenience store, to stop serving hot food, Muller

"No hot dogs," she told a hungry customer. "We don't have anything but cold dogs."

Detective Richard Potts of the State Police station in Frankford said most damage was centered in Frank-ford and Hampton, with some wind damage in Wantage.

There were two storm-related electrical fires in Sussex and a threecar accident, but no serious injuries, said Police Chief James Moore.

Stanhope mobilized its entire police department as trees, live electrical wires and utility poles blocked five major roads, said George Johnson, the borough's emergency management co-

A garage at a house on Church Street was leveled during the twister,

Sussex County highway crews helped clean up the mess and State Po-lice directed traffic at numerous intersections where traffic lights were

In Warren County, high winds knocked down trees and power lines but authorities throughout the county re-

ported no major damage.

In Hackettstown, Mountain Avenue was closed when a wire came down at 10:23 a.m., darkening the south side , of town. Police said power was restored

quickly.
In Passaic County, officials reported a 59-year-old Wayne resident was injured when a tree toppled on him as he walked on the county's golf . course.

Cortland Murray of Weinmans Boulevard was taking a walk on the county golf course on Totowa Avenue when the storm hit. The top of a tree fell on him, causing a possible broken leg and scratches on his face, police re-

Murray, who called out to golfers for assistance, was taken to Wayne General Hospital.

The bulk of the storm damage appeared to be at Wayne Hills High School, where no injuries were reported despite some 20 windows being broken

from debris tossed by heavy winds.

"Everybody was frantic," said
freshman Stacey Hamernicki. Janine
Loweth, a classmate in the 650-member

school, said she saw "things flying by."
Portions of a brick wall, which stands over the school's main entrance and extends above the roof, were knocked loose, sending pieces flying through windows of both classrooms and several parked cars. Damages to the roof resulted in flooding in class-

rooms and a stairwell. Although the school was not evac-uated, students in the affected areas were sent to the cafeteria.

A chilly afternoon wind blew in

through broken windows in several rooms, including the library and the science room, where workmen repaired the damage.

"It's just a matter of cleaning up "It's just a matter of cleaning up and patching up now," said Bill Garvey, who supervises the school district's building maintenance. Superintendent Robert Winter said be was optimistic school would be open

today.

A decision by school personnel to keep seniors on campus during their lunch hour may have prevented in-

juries.
Winter said the decision, which was broadcast over the public address system, was made after consulting with the National Weather Service.

In Clifton, police said heavy winds

damaged 54 new cars at All Car Service on Kingsland Avenue. The vehicles sustained broken windows and

In Asbury Park, the roof of the burned-out Steinbach department store was blown off, causing fears that the facade would tumble. Police cordoned off the area around the store. Bricks fell inside the building, rather than onto the street, officials said. Middletown police reported

downed power lines and telephone poles, uprooted trees and fire and bur glar alarms being inadvertently acti-

Police said there were several traffic accidents, but no serious in-

Hazlet police reported a downed

power line, but no other damage.
Police in Sea Bright, Monmouth Beach and Spring Lake reported high waves and rough seas, but no major

Police in Allentown, Marlboro, Freehold Township and Manalapan reported isolated downed trees, but no major property damage or injuries in the severe squall that hit the western



Dan Dassing watches a leaf fire caused by a downed electrical wire on Bell Street in Belleville

part of the county about noon with heavy winds, and blinding rains, which stopped as quickly as they started.

An unconfirmed twister in Colts Neck struck the Due Process Farms on

Route 537, the horse farm owned by financier Robert Brennan, and destroyed a shed, but none of the people or horses were injured.

Many trees were also reported

down on the Fairleigh Dickinson University campus in Rutherford, he said. A large tree fell next to the library, but missed the roof, a campus dispatcher. said.

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